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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 730
By Ferguson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Deborah Newcomb of
Lenoir City on her selection as a 2002 Prudential
Spirit of Community Award winner.

WHEREAS, each year the National Association of Secondary School Principals and Prudential Financial name a highly select group of young citizens as Spirit of Community Award winners; and

WHEREAS, this elite group is honored by a nationwide program which recognizes some of our "best and brightest" students for their exceptional volunteer work; and

WHEREAS, Deborah Newcomb from Lenoir City received this prestigious recognition this year; and

WHEREAS, Deborah, a Senior at Lenoir City High School, initiated a project to provide more than 2,000 hand-sewn, custom-designed items to help the elderly in her community recover from illness or accident; and

WHEREAS, while volunteering at a nursing home, she befriended a woman who loved to sew before a stroke stole her ability to thread a needle; and

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WHEREAS, Deborah responded by making her friend an activity blanket to help with her coordination and putting Velcro enclosures on her clothing to help her dress herself; and

WHEREAS, that simple start was the birth of Deborah's ACES (Aid and Comfort for the Elderly) project, whereby she worked with two area nursing homes to determine what items were needed most and to expand the initial program making activity blankets, wheelchair and walker bags, texture books, and adult-sized bibs; and

WHEREAS, as the project grew, she called on members of her 4-H group to help and encourage local businesses to donate materials; three years later, the program has proven to be extremely successful; and

WHEREAS, Deborah also hosts sewing events and has organized "Make It and Take It," sessions to enable others to take patterns back to their own clubs and make items for donation; and

WHEREAS, as a state honoree, Deborah will receive \$1,000, an engraved silver medallion, and a trip to Washington, D. C. on May 4, 2002, for a series of national recognition events; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to specially salute this outstanding Tennessee Volunteer; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Deborah Newcomb on being named a 2002 Prudential Spirit of Community Award winner and salute her exemplary service to the elderly of her community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

